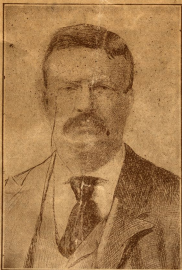


THE ROOSEVELT FONETIC SPELLING BOOK



As arranged by the Simplified Spelling Board and Adopted by
the U. S. Government

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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S INTRODUCTION

Most of the criticism of the proposed changes in spelling is evidently made in entire ignorance of what the step is, no less than in entire ignorance of the very moderate and common-sense views as to the purposes to be achieved, which views are so excellently set forth in the circulars to which I have referred. There is not the slightest intention to do anything revolutionary or initiate any far-reaching policy. The purpose simply is for the government, instead of lagging behind popular sentiment to advance abreast of it and at the same time abreast of the views of the ablest and most practical educators of our time, as well as of the most profound scholars—men of the stamp of Professor Lounsbury and Professor Skeat. If the slight changes in the spelling of the three hundred words proposed wholly or partially meet popular approval, then the changes will become permanent without any reference to what public officials or individual private citizens may feel; if they do not ultimately meet with popular approval they will be dropt and that is all there is about it. They represent nothing in the world but a very slight extension of the unconscious movement which has made agricultural implement makers and farmers write *plow* instead of *plough*, which has made most Americans write *honor* without the somewhat absurd, superfluous *u*; and which is even now making people write *program* without the *me*, just as all people who speak English now write *bat*, *set*, *dim*, *sum* and *fish*, instead of the Elizabethan *battc*, *settc*, *Dimme*, *summe* and *Fysshe*; which makes us write *public*, *almanac*, *era*, *fantasy*, and *wagon*, instead of the *Publick*, *Almanack*, *aera*, *Phan-*

tasy, and *Waggon* of our great-grandfathers. It is not an attack on the language of Shakespeare and Milton, because it is in some instances a going-back to the forms they used, and in others merely the extension of changes which, as regards other words, have taken place since their time. It is not an attempt to do anything far-reaching or sudden or violent, or indeed anything very great at all. It is merely an attempt to cast what slight weight can properly be cast on the side of the popular forces which are endeavoring to make our spelling a little less foolish and fantastic.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

PREFACE

The anomalies and perversities of English spelling are obvious enough, and call loudly for regulation. But the very fact that some spellings are anomalous and perverse implies that the other spellings are more or less regular, and this is true. The majority of English words are spelled according to ascertainable analogies, and are thus fairly regular. This is especially true as to literary words of more than one syllable, of Latin or Greek origin. Thus, words like *eminent*, *prominent*, *evident*, *protestant*, *memorial*, *terrestrial*, *practical*, *astronomical*, *familiar*, *peculiar*, *ability*, *conformity*, *monopoly*, *tedious*, *previous*, *biology*, etc., are approximately phonetic as to the short vowels which are concerned in these words. They would not present many difficulties to the learner, if the learner were not confused by a host of other words with other analogies. It is true also of a great many monosyllables not end-

ing in silent *e*, as *bat, bet, bit, but, bad, bed, bid, bud, ban, bin, bun, cam, dam, slam, slap, slat, clash, clasp, self, help, strong, strength, etc.*, but here again a host of other monosyllables suggesting other analogies (*plaid, saith, bread, been, flood, come, etc.*) rush in to badger and confuse the unhappy learner.

The rules and analogies which underlie English spelling can, however, be ascertained and stated, and the exceptions can then be clearly seen. The next thing is to reduce or abolish the exceptions. The process has worked well with many words. Why not continue it with other words? The matter is really very simple. When the rules and analogies are understood, any intelligent person can see for himself when a particular spelling deviates from them. Thus, any one can see that *bin, bunn, butt*, are out of accord with the rule established by the innumerable words like *pin, pun, cut*, that *centre, metre, fibre, etc.*, are out of accord with the rule established by *canter, number, timber, diameter, etc.*, and that *favour, honour, etc.*, are out of accord with the rule established by *error, terror, minor, major, editor, senator, etc.* So, likewise *dript, dropt, snapt, drest, prest, etc.*, tho now actually less common than *dripped, dropped, snapped, crossed, dressed, etc.*, are more in accord with the prevailing analogy of *p* or *s* before a *t* sound, which appears in *apt, host, boast, best, nest, rust, etc.*, and in the old spelling, still retained, of some preterits and participles, as *crept, lost, swept, etc.*, as well as *dreamt, leapt, etc.* The common forms *dripped, dropped, dressed, pressed, etc.*, are in a great part alterations of seventeenth and eighteenth century spellings with *t*. The alterations were made to establish a visible but fallacious uniformity of inflection. Forms like *dript, dropt, stept, stopt, crost, drest, kist, prest, etc.*,

abound in the original editions of Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Burns, Scott, Byron, and are very common in more recent poets, as Tennyson, Landor, Swinburne, Lowell. They are always seen in those modern editions of the older standard writers in which the attempt is made to give a correct text. The habit of present publishers of permitting their proofreaders to "adopt" some imperfect standard, like the older dictionaries, as an inflexible rule, and to alter the text of the standard authors, when a new edition is made, to suit his "preference," serves to conceal from the reader the real spelling of the author himself. Thus, not only Shakespeare and Milton, but Pope, Cowper, Byron, Scott, Campbell, Macaulay, are compelled to appear, not in their own spelling, but in the spelling of the publisher or proofreader who chances to "prefer" Worcester or Webster, or some other mechanical guide. This tends to suppress the truth, to stereotype bad forms as well as good, and to prevent that reasonable change toward order and simplicity which was allowed to work freely before the nineteenth century.

Happily, however, there are many hundred words in which this process of stereotyping irregular or anomalous forms has not prevailed, and in which a choice still lies open between a simple or normal form, and a less simple or anomalous form.

It has been thought wise to print a partial list of the words now spelled in two or more ways, with a view of informing the public of the facts, and of ascertaining how far intelligent readers will concur in the effort to establish the simpler forms. A full list would contain many hundred words, many of them bookish or technical or semi-foreign. Such lists are to be found in the current dictionaries (Webster, Worcester, Standard),

but they were compiled for a different purpose, and not only include spellings long obsolete, but omit many spellings (like *dropt*, *prest*, *tho*, etc.) always in extensive use.

The following list contains three hundred common words now spelled in two or more ways. The list could be made to contain 600 or 900. The number depends upon the limits assigned to the word "common," and upon the purpose in view.

There are in this list about 40 distinguishable classes of words. We mention 20. The other classes include each only a few words. Some words are quite isolated.

Certain large classes of words spelled in two or more ways are for the sake of brevity omitted from the present list. Such are the chemical words in *-ide* or *-id*, and *-ine* or *-in*, and the forms involving *-ll-* or *-l-*, or *-tt-* or *-t-*, before suffixes, as *travelled* or *traveled*, *traveller* or *traveler*, *travelling* or *traveling*, etc., *rivetted* or *riveted*, *rivetter* or *riveter*, *rivetting* or *riveting*, etc. Of course the simpler form is to be preferred.

The classes included, arranged in the alphabetic order of the letters or affixes affected, are as follows:

1. Words spelled with *ae*, *æ* or *e*. Rule: Choose *e*. Ex.: *Anesthetic*, *esthetic*, *medieval*, etc.

2. Words spelled with *-dge-ment* or *-dg-ment*. Rule: Omit *e*. Ex.: *Abridgment*, *acknowledgment*, *judgment*, *lodgment*.

3. Words spelled with *-ed* or *-t*, the preceding single consonant being doubled before *-ed* (*-pped*, *-ssed*) and left single before *-t* (*-pt*, *-st*). Rule: Choose *-t* in all cases. Ex.: *Dipt*, *dript*, *dropt*, *stept*, *stoppt*, etc., *blest*, *prest*, *distrest*, *mist*, etc., *blusht*, *husht*, *washt*, etc.

Forms like these, being inflections, are commonly omitted in the dictionary list of words spelled in two or more ways, but they are genuine historical spellings and can not be ignored. Some are very ancient (for example, *kist* is Anglo-Saxon *cyste*, and *mist* is Anglo-Saxon *miste*), and all are frequent and normal in English literature from Spenser, Shakespeare, and Milton to Tennyson and Lowell. We cite some authorities, from original or exact editions, for the principal forms included in the list. Exact references can be supplied. Similar forms abound in the authors mentioned and others. Milton, for example, has *compast*, *langwight*, *vanquisht*, *admonisht*, *astonisht*, *diminisht*, *polisht*, *worshipt*, *supt*, *ceast*, *linkt*, *matcht*, *scorcht*, etc.,

THREE HUNDRED WORDS

Choose the simpler spelling, that at the left:

abridgment	abridgement
accouter	accoutre
accurst	accursed
acknowledgment	acknowledgement
address	addressed
adz	adze
affixt	affixed
altho	although
anapest	anapaest
anemia	anaemia
anesthesia	anaesthesia
anesthetic	anaesthetic
antipyrin	antipyrine
antitoxin	antitoxine
apothem	apothegm
apprize	apprise
arbor	arbour
archeology	archaeology

ardor
armor
artizan
assize
ax
bans
bark
behavior
blest
blusht
brazen
brazier
bun
burr
caliber
caliper
candor
carest
catalog
catechize
center
chapt
check
checker
chimera
civilize
clamor
clangor
clapt
claspt
clipt
clue
coeval
color
colter
commixt
comprest
comprize
confest
controller
coquet
criticize

ardour
armour
artisan
assise
axe
banns
barque
behaviour
blessed
blushed
brassen
brasier
bunn
burr
calibre
calliper
candour
caressed
catalogue
catechise
centre
chapped
cheque
chequer
chimaera
civilise
clamour
clangour
clapped
clasped
clipped
clew
coaeval
colour
coulter
commixed
compressed
comprise
confessed
comptroller
coquette
eriticise

cropt
crost
crusht
cue
curst
cutlas
cyclopedia
dactyl
dasht
decalog
defense
demagog
demeanor
deposit
deprest
develop
dieresis
dike
dipt
discust
dispatch
distil
distrest
dolor
domicil
draft
dram
drest
dript
droopt
dropt
dulness
ecumenical
edlle
egis
enamor
encyclopedia
endeavor
envelop
Eolian
eon
epaulet

cropped
crossed
crushed
queue
cursed
cutlass
cyclopaedia
dactyle
dashed
decalogue
defence
demagogue
demeanour
deposit
depressed
develope
diaeresis
dyke
dipped
discussed
despatch
distill
distressed
dolour
domicile
draught
drachm
dressed
dripped
drooped
dropped
dullness
oecumenical
aedile, ædile
aegis, ægis
enamour
encyclopaedia
endeavour
envelope
Æolian
æon
épaulette

eponym
era
esophagus
esthetic
esthetics
estivate
ether
etiology
exorcize
express
fagot
fantasm
fantasy
fantom
favor
favorite
fervor
fiber
fixt
flavor
fulfil
fulness
gage
gazel
gelatin
gild
gipsy
gloze
glycerin
good-by
gram
gript
harbor
harken
heapt
hematin
hiccup
hock
homeopathy
homonym
honor
humor

eponyme
aera
oesophagus
aesthetic
aesthetics
aestivate
aether
aetiology
exorcise
expressed
faggot
phantasm
phantasy
phantom
favour
favourite
fervour
fibre
fixed
flavour
fulfill
fullness
gauge
gazelle
gelatine
guild
gypsy
glose
glycerine
good-bye
gramme
gripped
harbour
hearken
heaped
haematin
hiccough
hough
homoeopathy
homonyme
honour
humour

husht
hypotenuse
idolize
imprest
instil
jail
judgment
kist
labor
lacrimal
lapt
lasht
leapt
legalize
license
licorice
liter
lodgment
lookt
lopt
luster
mama
maneuver
materialize
meager
medieval
meter
mist
miter
mixt
mold
molder
molding
moldy
molt
mullen
naturalize
neighbor
niter
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ocher
odor

hushed
hypothénuse
idolise
impressed
instill
gaol
judgement
kissed
labour
lachrymal
lapped
lashed
leaped
legalise
licence
liquorice
litre
lodgement
looked
lopped
lustre
mamma
manœuver
materialise
meagre
mediaeval
metre
missed
mitre
mixed
mould
moulder
moulding
mouldy
moult
mullein
naturalise
neighbour
nitre
nipped
ochre
odour

offense
omelet
opprest
orthopedic
paleography
paleolithic
paleontology
paleozoic
paraffin
parlor
partizan
past
patronize
pedagog
pedobaptist
phenix
phenomenon
pigmy
plow
polyp
possest
practise, v. and n.
prefixt
prenomen
prest
pretense
preterit
pretermit
primeval
profest
program
prolog
propt
pur
quartet
questor
quintet
rancor
rapt
raze
recognize
reconnoiter

offence
omelette
oppressed
orthopaedic
palaeography
palaeolithic
palaeontology
palaeozoic
paraffine
parlour
partisan
passed
patronise
pedagogue
paedobaptist
phoenix
phaenomenon
pygmy
plough
polype
possessed
practice
prefixed
praenomen
pressed
pretence
preterite
praetermit
primaeval
professed
programme
prologue
propped
purr
quartette
quaestor
quintette
rancour
rapped
rase
recognise
reconnoitre

rigor
rime
ript
rumor
saber
saltpeter
savior
savor
scepter
septet
sepulcher
sextet
silvan
simitar
sipt
sithe
skilful
skipt
slipt
smolder
snapt
somber
specter
splendor
stedfast
stept
stopt
strest
stript
subpena
succor
suffixt
sulfate
sulfur
sumac
supprest
surprize
synonym
tabor
tapt
teazel
tenor

rigour
rhyme
ripped
rumour
sabre
saltpetre
saviour
savour
sceptre
septette
sepulchre
sextette
sylvan
scimitar
sipped
scythe
skillful
skipped
slipped
smoulder
snapped
sombre
spectre
splendour
steadfast
stepped
stopped
stressed
stripped
subpoena
succour
suffixed
sulphate
sulphur
sumach
suppressed
surprise
synonyme
tabour
tapped
teasel
tenour

theater
tho
thoro
thorofare
thoroly
thru
thruout
tipt
topt
tost
transgrest
trapt
tript
tumor
valor
vapor
vext
vigor
vizor
wagon
washt
whipt
whisky
wilful
winkt
wisht
wo
woful
woolen
wrapt

theatre
though
thorough
thoroughfare
thoroughly
through
throughout
tipped
topped
tossed
transgressed
trapped
tripped
tumour
valour
vapour
vexed
vigour
visor
waggon
washed
whipped
whiskey
willful
winked
wished
woe
woeful
woollen
wrapped